

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: PCI TREATMENT OF BUKOVSKY-CORVALAN EXCHANGE

1. UNITA'S TREATMENT OF THE BUKOVSKY-CORVALAN EXCHANGE PROVIDES AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF HOW THE PCI GEARS ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTEREST TO DIFFERENT AUDIENCES. FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS, THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES CONCENTRATED EXCLUSIVELY ON CORVALAN'S RELEASE, HIS WARM WELCOME IN MOSCOW, AND THE "JOY OF CHILEAN COMMUNISTS." A READER WOULD HAVE TO DELVE INTO THE ARTICLES TO LEARN OF BUKOVSKY'S RELEASE.

2. THE PCI PAPER'S INITIAL EDITORIAL TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE OF POLITICAL FREEDOM RAISED BY THE BUKOVSKY-CORVALAN EXCHANGE WAS LOW-KEY AND RESTRAINED IN ITS CRITICISM OF THE USSR. ENUMERATING THE USSR'S MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIALISM, THE DEC. 18 EDITORIAL ATTEMPTED TO PLACE THE BUKOVSKY AFFAIR IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE "EFFORTS OF A GREAT NATION" STRIVING "TO EXTEND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE
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RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, STILL IMPERFECT OR DENIED."

3. AFTER TWO DAYS OF ADDITIONAL REFLECTION (POSSIBLY PROMPTED BY L'HUMANITE'S PROMPT CONDEMNATION OF THE USSR WHICH L'UNITA REPORTED ON DEC. 19), UNITA SHARPENED ITS INITIALLY CAUTIOUS LINE. ALTHOUGH HEADLINE

REPORTING AND PHOTO COVERAGE STILL FOCUSSED ON CORVALAN,
A BRIEF UNSIGNED COMMENTARY ON DEC. 20 CRITICIZES THE
SOVIET UNION DIRECTLY AND HARSHLY FOR THE FLAUNTING OF
CIVIL LIBERTIES AS EVIDENCED BY BUKOVSKY'S POLITICAL
PERSECUTION AND EXPULSION.

4. THE DEC. 20 ARTICLE, "UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS," APPEARS
ADDRESSED TO THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE PCI'S EURO-
COMMUNIST FACE. IT ASSERTS THAT THE BUKOVSKY AFFAIR RAISES
QUESTIONS WHICH MUST BE "OPENLY DISCUSSED, CONFRONTED,
AND RESOLVED." THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF INDIVIDUALS
FOR "SO-CALLED CRIMES OF OPINION" ARE "INADMISSABLE"
JUST AS IS THE EXPULSION OF DISSENTERS FROM THEIR
COUNTRY. WHEN SUCH THINGS GO ON, "IT IS NOT ONLY THE
DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND THE INTERNATIONAL
PRESTIGE OF THE USSR THAT SUFFERS, IT IS SOCIALISM ITSELF,
IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD, THAT IS DARKENED."BEAUDRY

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